

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9, 2005

CONTACT: MARIL E. ALSUP
Public Affairs Specialist
(413) 253-4314 or
maril.alsup@ma.usda.gov

Essex Library Association Receives \$2 Million for Expansion



Essex, CT – The Essex Library Association welcomed a visit from USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle today who arrived with \$2 million for the renovation and expansion of the Essex Library. The federal funds are being provided to the Essex Library Association as part of USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Low-Interest Loan Program.

"We're thrilled to receive a loan through the USDA," said Bridget Quinn-Carey, Essex Library Director. "Our library serves a diverse population and provides a broad range of services to support the community and surrounding areas. This loan program is an excellent fit for us, and we sincerely appreciate the opportunity to put these funds to work in Essex."

The Essex Library is currently located in a 4,408 square foot building which was built with private donations in 1980 and included plans to add 1,000 square feet at later date. A "later date" has turned into twenty-five years and the library that was built to accommodate 5,000 residents is now serving 7,000 residents as well as out-of-town visitors. The \$2 million low-interest loan presented today by USDA Rural Development, in combination with \$500,000 from the State Library Construction Program, and over \$143,000 raised by the Library Association's Capital Campaign, will finance the renovation of the current facility as well as an addition of over 5,000 square feet.

"I learned recently that Connecticut is home to the very first municipal public library in America as well as the first tax-supported and organized town library in the country," said USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle. "USDA Rural Development is proud to become a part of Connecticut's noble tradition of support for public libraries."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Americans. USDA Rural Development invested over \$34.9 million in Connecticut in Fiscal Year 2004 to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

###